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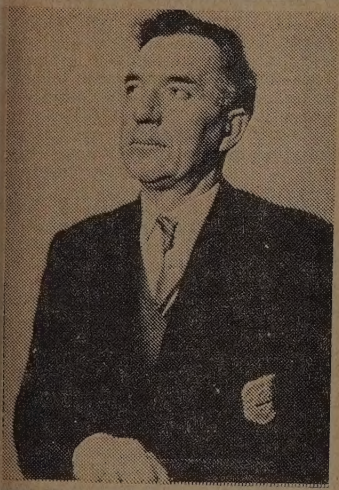
No. 697 Twopence November, 1961

THE UNITARIAN

A MAGAZINE FOR FREE CHRISTIANS



EX-POLICEMAN TO BECOME MINISTER

"A 46-year-old ex-detective from Liverpool has accepted Todmorden Unitarian Church Committee's invitation to be Lay Minister of the Todmorden Church. He is Mr. James C. Turner, who is at present doing full time studies at the Unitarian College, Manchester.

"Mr. Turner is married and has two daughters Elspeth (13½) and Alison (10½).

"He has recently retired from the police after 25 years service. In his career, Mr. Turner worked in many departments starting, as all policemen do, on "the beat," in Liverpool. He was soon transferred to the 'plain clothes section'' and ultimately to the C.I.D. at the Liverpool headquarters in the Criminal Record Office. For the last eight years of his service Mr. Turner worked in the Juvenile Liaison Officer's Section, then in its formative years, and his work with teenagers earned him the affectionate label of "Teddy-boys friend."

Mr. Turner has always had a keen interest in youth work and he still holds a warrant as a Group Scoutmaster. He has been a member of the Scout Movement since he was a boy and his interest in the movement is shared by his wife, who has been a member of the Girl Guides Association for many years."

From the "Todmorden News and Advertiser." Mr. Turner has now begun his lay ministry.

INTRODUCING "UHFA"

A message to UYPLers —and others

Do you know the Unitarian Holiday Centre at Great Hucklow in Derbyshire? Many thousands of UYPLers have spent happy days there — in conference and on holiday; dancing and talking; singing, laughing and playing; meeting old friends and making new ones; even falling in love—and out of love!

Hucklow needs our help. The Holiday Centre is badly in need of refurnishing. ("Gosh," said one young lady at the recent September Week-end, "these settees aren't exactly comfortable." And she should know!)

At the May meetings, branch delegates voted unanimously to set a target of £500 for the U.Y.P.L. Hucklow Furnishing Appeal — U.H.F.A. And U.H.F.A. was duly launched with full ceremony at the September Week-end: the new baby Hucklow was baptised in lemonade

by U.Y.P.L. President Len Smith. Now we shall see how he grows!

And it depends on us! On *us* in the U.Y.P.L. branches. On U.Y.P.L. members everywhere.

THE NATIONAL UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

By Francis Terry

"A desire has been expressed that the activities of Unitarian congregations should be supplemented by a society of individuals in general sympathy with their point of view." That sentence, from the rules of the National Unitarian Fellowship, summarises its origin and purpose.

The desire had in fact been expressed in 1943, at the General Assembly meetings, as part of a plan for Unitarian propaganda and advance. The late Leslie Belton (former Editor of "The Inquirer," and then minister of Upper Chapel, Sheffield) suggested the need for a society which people could be invited to join as an immediate expression of general support, before deciding about Church membership (a matter which orthodox associations cause many people to approach with considerable hesitation): such a society might also reveal the extent of Unitarian sympathy which exists outside the island areas of our congregations. Subsequent articles in "The Inquirer" brought interested people together. Among these, concern was expressed for Unitarians whose circumstances take them to places far from any of our churches: for them, what was needed was not a mere "society" but a "fellowship," supplying (mainly through the medium of the post) something of the companionship they had previously found in congregational life. In some places the Fellowship might start a new Unitarian group.

For these purposes the National Unitarian Fellowship was founded in 1945, with a constitution similar to that of an ordinary self-governing congregation, except that all elections and business have to be conducted by post, and there is no provision for owning premises or appointing a minister. It is affiliated to the General Assembly.

The principal organ of the N.U.F. is its Newsletter, of six printed pages, circulated six times a year. It is intended not only to give current news of the Fellowship, but also to be a means of communication between members, and reflects their interests. It contains articles reminding members of various activities of our denomination, such as reports of G.A. meetings and other conferences. It also tries to some extent to take the place of a religious service, usually printing a prayer, often a "reading" and sometimes a brief sermon.

A good proportion of the members are also linked by "Books of Fellowship" — loose-leaf books, each circulating among a group of 12 members. A "book" usually contains a communication (essay, discussion, quotation, as the case may be) from each of its members. When a member receives the book he reads all the items, takes out his old contribution, and inserts a new one, sometimes carrying on a line of thought from one of the other members. Thus they are kept in touch with one-another's views and interests.

Similar in method is the recently started "Parents' Circle" described in the *Unitarian* of February last. This caters for parents where there is no Unitarian Sunday School, and links them and their children with one another and with the R.E.Y.D.

There is also a good postal library.

The N.U.F. grew slowly and for some years its membership stood around 120. In the last year numbers have been increasing, and are now over 180. A large proportion are getting their first experience of organised Unitarianism, and thus constitute a special responsibility: a number of these newcomers have

since joined Unitarian congregations, where some have become valued church officers. The publicity committee has been specially helpful in introducing such members. Others are Unitarians on the move and keeping contact. There are members in Canada, Barbados, Sweden, Damascus, Tanganyika and Hong Kong. A number of "Unitarian stalwarts" (including some most valued ministers) have supported the N.U.F. by their membership and co-operation: they recognise the need for developing this aspect of Unitarian witness.

"STRENGTH AND SONG"

By J. Martin Hall

A letter to the "Inquirer" some time ago did not seem to approve of those "whose faith in God is about as attenuated as the sunshine in a thick November mist." In a sermon I heard preached the other day exception was made to the kind of faith that seemed "to have a fear of letting God in." All Unitarians ought to remember we like to claim ours is "the religion of the larger affirmation." We are Unitarians, not because of what we deny, but because of the largeness of the faith we proclaim.

The psalmist who sang that God was his strength and his song did not have November fogs in his faith. The Epistle of St. John did not either when it said, "God is light and in him there is no darkness at all . . . If we say that we have fellowship with him and walk in the darkness we lie and do not tell the truth, but if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." A loud Amen to that.

I like the view which further justifies the rejoicing, merry-making attitude of the father to the younger son—in the parable of the Prodical Son — on the score that the elder brother was less worthy of consideration because his view of life lacked joyousness. Jesus admired rejoicing. It is a spirit which should never be long absent from our faith.

The problems of belief, the anxieties of our world, darkness and difficulty, are all matters with which we ought to occupy ourselves as Unitarians, but always so as to transfuse each concern with the brightness of our faith. "Red in tooth and claw," Nature is forbidding; notorious for many failures, marriage is forbidding; seen rightly, each of these can be our strength and our song. Music to children can be very forbidding, but when children determine it shall be their strength and their song they can soon master it. English to children is also forbidding, but of this subject the Unitarian poet Longfellow said, "My whole soul burns most ardently for it, and every earthly thought centres upon it." No wonder therefore as a boy I found joy in those Robinson Crusoe lines of his,

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.
Footprints that perhaps another . . .

English was his strength and song. It all depends on whether we see our Religion too as our strength and song, a great challenge to us, or a problem, whether it has value, or whether it has not. With the warmth of faith about us when we meet together, we shall have light to guide us through all November mists.

CHILDREN'S CORNER:

Remember, Remember . . .

"Uncle George," asked Raymond, "didn't you tell me once that the Gunpowder Plot was sorted out up here in the North of England?"

"Not exactly, Raymond," I replied. "What I think I *did* say was that

just as many places in Britain seem to possess the grave of King Arthur, so also do many others seem to have provided a haunt for the 1605 plotters."

"Well," said Raymond, "perhaps they moved about a bit so as not to look suspicious."

"Perhaps so," I said. "There's a place near here, Ordsall Hall, that has such a legend in common with several other spots. The plotters are supposed to have met there but there is no direct evidence."

"And after all that, they didn't succeed." Raymond sounded almost sympathetic.

"No," I said. "But, you know, it was believed at one time, apparently, that the Plot was discovered by a Dr. Dee in a magic mirror. Dr. John Dee, it seems, won considerable fame in the later years of the first Elizabeth's reign as a noted alchemist, with a bit of sorcery thrown in for good measure. The belief circulated widely during the 18th century and an engraving which went the rounds showed the King and Dr. Dee looking into the mirror. The mirror reflected a shadowy picture of the Houses of Parliament cellars and a man entering with a lantern. The Eye of Providence shone from above as legs and hoofs disappeared at the bottom of the picture."

Raymond stared.

"Was it true?" he asked.

"Well, I shouldn't think so," I replied. "They were caught, I think, by more orthodox methods."

"I wonder why poor Guy Fawkes has had to take the blame. What about the others? They knew their names."

"What, indeed? But his persecution is lessening. I see that the local council have banned all street fires. Only fires on open spaces will be allowed."

Raymond was thoughtful.

"I'm not surprised, really," he said, "there's a lot of damage done: people getting burned, doors, windows, hedges. And all that mess to clear up in the morning."

"Yes. Well, the local cleansing department has to do that and it comes out of the rates. Now, if there are a few fires in suitable spots, they'll cope with them much more easily and much less damage will be done. People will just have to adapt themselves; and I don't think they'll find that too difficult."

With every good wish, George.

SUMMER SCHOOL, 1961

By Barbara J. Hughes and Ann Davies

As it was our pleasure to attend this year's Summer School for Sunday School teachers, held at Passfield Hall, London, we are sure that your readers would like to know that it was a resounding success, enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Our thanks must go to the Rev. Dudley Richards for organising this event, and for all the hard work he put in to make it such a success. Thanks also to Miss F. Railton and Miss E. Eden for their tuition, including two most interesting teaching demonstrations at Ilford Sunday School, and individual and group sessions which we all found most helpful. We were also fortunate to have Mrs. Phyllis Hostler, author, as our guest speaker, to give a talk on "The children we teach."

The week was skilfully divided to provide for demonstrations, talks, question time, discussion and practical work. During the latter sessions ideas were exchanged and visual aids to Bible teaching were displayed and discussed; we also attempted to make some ourselves. The Primary Department teachers made pictures of Bible scenes, and the Junior and Senior Department teachers made a Bible library, and also tried their skill with potter's clay.

However, the week was not all work, generous free time was allowed. As you can imagine full

A Group of young Unitarians who visited the Wedgwood factory while on holiday at Great Hucklow.

use was made of this time for sight-seeing, one memorable visit being paid to Essex Hall for the evening service and another on Monday to the book shop and a tour of the building. On Wednesday another group enjoyed a river trip to Hampton Court. Although students come from various parts of the country, everyone was soon at ease and making friends. Instead of the usual social evening a theatre party was arranged for Thursday evening.

It is most encouraging to meet other young people who are interested in and so enthusiastic about Sunday School teaching, and we hope that other Sunday School teachers will be encouraged and take advantage of the next Summer School.

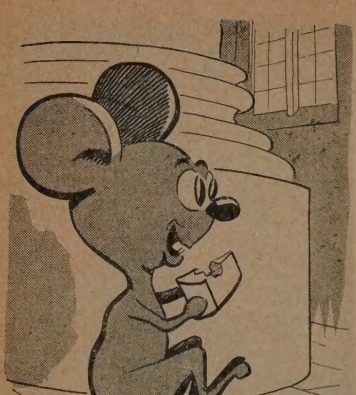
We returned to Aberdare full of enthusiasm, new ideas and increased knowledge.

AS I SEE IT

by H. J.

From time to time the subject of advertising our Faith is discussed and many hold the view that more money should be spent on it. Whether expensive newspaper propaganda would bring us any new members is open to doubt. I believe that just as a city is judged, or should be judged by its citizens and a home by the members of the family and not by the title of its address or its comfortable furnishings so too a Church is judged by its members. They alone can spread the value of their Faith by their everyday conduct and the way in which they work together as a group.

If by their actions individually and collectively they prove themselves to be loyal, honourable and just, tolerant and kind and generous and eager in support of their Church they will inevitably, like a mirror, reflect the quality and spirit of their Faith and this is the most valuable and perhaps the only effective form of advertisement.



"The Government's pay pause is going to be like our cat's paws . . . used for striking."

NEWS AND VIEWS

Overseas Churches

From a short list of four, VANCOUVER has chosen Professor Gerson as the architect for its new building. Mr. Gerson is Acting Director of the School of Architecture at the University of British Columbia. He is a member of the Board of the Church and a life-long Unitarian.

Home Churches

The Rev. S. Imoaka, minister of Unity Church, Tokyo, was a visitor to RICHMOND Church during the summer. He accompanied the Rev. A. Peacock who was conducting worship there, and it was his first acquaintance with London.

The preacher at WANDSWORTH'S morning Harvest Festival was the Rev. H. D. Oliver, M.A., minister of Holloway Congregational Church and Chairman of the Union of Modern Free-Churchmen.

The largest congregation that the new chapel has known assembled at LEWISHAM on September 24, for a memorial service to the late Mr Dag Hammarskjold. It was attended by the officers of the local U.N.A.

BRIXTON is hoping that its new building will be ready for worship by next summer.

Mr. J. Bristow, organist at NEWINGTON GREEN, is an authority on secret tunnels in London. In July he broadcast an account of his discoveries. Some of the tunnels he has discovered have connections with the anti-Armada defences in the sixteenth century.

The Rev. J. W. Dyer (Killinchy) commences a new ministry at Tenterden and Northiam in November. The Tenterden congregation has Mr. Graeme Green (Billy Bunter) as opener of their bazaar in November.

The STRAND Unitarian Church celebrates its first anniversary with a dinner at the House of Commons on October 21. From the beginning of November the congregation will be presenting a series of weekly lectures on the theme "The Art of Living."

Three new activities began at EDINBURGH in October. For two Sunday evenings each month there will be a new form of worship based on quietness, helped by music, some readings, and perhaps some speaking: but without hymns, prayers and sermon. On Monday, October 9, the minister, the Rev. Bruce Findlow began a series of eight lectures on Unitarianism. Every Tuesday afternoon throughout the winter the church doors will be open, the hall will be warm and tea will be brewing for all who care to come in. There will be no "programme"—"simply a place and a welcome for the lonely, tired and troubled."

WE'VE HAD OUR CHIPS

"No one can explain the mystery of one God and three Persons. But, to take a very homely example, no one can even explain the mysterious force which enables a two ounce seed potato to grow into perhaps two pounds of the same vegetable. Our lack of understanding does not prevent us enjoying, and benefitting from the potato."

From "Christian Foundations" by G. E. Diggle.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The Rev. and Mrs. J. Gill, 25, Malvern Avenue, Bury. Telephone: Bury 5615.

THE INQUIRER

The weekly organ of the Unitarian and Free Christian Churches

Every Saturday, Price 4d.

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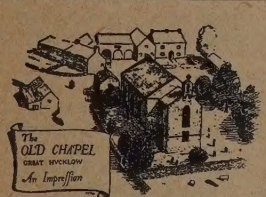

Northern S.S. Federation

UNITARIAN HOLIDAY HOMES

GREAT HUCKLOW, BUXTON DERBYSHIRE

All three Homes will be ready to welcome you. Early booking desirable.

A service of All Faiths arranged in co-operation with the World Congress of Faiths was held at DONCASTER in September. The sermon was presented by Madeleine Lady Lees, who also introduced an exhibition of Tibetan objects collected by Sir Francis Younghusband, founder of the World Congress of Faiths.

As one of its projects to celebrate the tercentenary, GOLDERS GREEN has recorded an hour-long tape of four short plays. The plays were "played off the cuff, theatre workshop technique."

Not long ago the minister at CROSS STREET CHAPEL, Manchester, casually referred to the fact that a certain engagement fell upon his birthday. He was very surprised on his birthday to receive a card with a mass of congregational signatures on it offering him good wishes. After his engagement at the Chapel a little birthday party had also been arranged for Mr. Bartlett.

In spite of long and careful negotiations Mr. Kenneth Tayler, architect for RICHMOND, Surrey, has been informed that planning permission for the new hall has been refused.

The sum of £2,700 has been raised by NEWPORT, Isle of Wight, towards the £3,500 needed for essential repairs.

At the opening proceedings at Unitarian College the address was given by the Rev. A. J. Long whose subject was "Half-believers in Casual Creeds."

A Visiting Committee has been formed at UNITY CHURCH, Sheffield to co-ordinate the efforts of the many people who have volunteered to undertake visiting.

Mrs. Raymond Hardy has moved from CULLOMPTON to London. Mrs. Hardy had been secretary and faithful servant of the Sunday School for many years, and upon her removal she was presented with an electric kettle by members of the congregation and Sunday School.

The annual meeting of the East Cheshire Union will be held on November 4 at ASHTON. The service will be conducted by the Rev. J. Harry Smith. In the evening the speaker will be the Rev. A. W. Vallance and his subject "Music in the service of the Church."

The Bury group of Churches held a United Service at STAND in October when the preacher was the Rabbi P. Selvin Goldberg, M.A., leader of the Manchester Reform Jewish Community. His sermon subject was "A Religious Definition of Religion."

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MINISTERS' PENSION & INSURANCE FUND

Tuesday, NOVEMBER 14th, 1961 at 2 p.m. at Essex Hall, 1/6, Essex Street, W.C.2

GENERAL MEETING

Business:

i. To approve and adopt proposals of the Board of Managers (a) to ensure that a Minister's widow shall receive some part of the annuity payable to him prior to his death, and (b) to make provision for Endowment Assurance.

ii. To adopt By-Law amendments, if the aforesaid proposals are adopted.

H. W. STEPHENSON.
Hon. Secretary.

The Lindsey Press

ALIENATION AND FELLOWSHIP
by Dr. D. Russell Davis
Reader in Medical Psychology Cambridge
Essex Hall Lecture 1961
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

THE WAY OF PRAYER
a manual of daily prayers and readings
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

SUPREME HOURS
selections from the prayers, sermons and verse of
W. G. TARRANT B.A.
2s., by post 2s. 2d.

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